



the Inside Scoop...of OJJ

Mission:

The Office of Juvenile Justice protects the public by providing safe and effective individualized services to youth, who will become productive, law-abiding citizens.



Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary

Here's another issue of *"The Scoop"* that's chock full of news and notes about what you all have been doing throughout the agency. It never fails to amaze me when I read about all that you do daily that goes above and beyond the call of duty. On page 14, read about Monroe **Transport Officer Credell Scott** giving his time to help someone in need. On pages 16-17 are stories about Lake Charles OJJ staff giving back to their community. Lafayette OJJ staff do the same, pages 19-20. You all just never stop giving. I guess it just comes naturally, and I am so proud to be a part of such an altruistic team.

On a lighter note, as ever, Chef Ron Sonnier shares some fantastic recipes on pages 28 and 29. Our editor admits to drooling over this month's recipe because it reminds her of childhood meals in New Orleans (a really looong time ago). We had some feedback (no pun intended) on Chef's last recipe. **CBS Administrative Assistant Katherine Abrams** writes, "yesterday I made the Spicy White Chicken Chili from Chef Sonnier that was in *The Inside Scoop*. It was greaaaaat! I shared the chili with CBS Central Office staff. Those who enjoyed the treat were DAS Carolyn Lewis, Angela Bridgewater, Laquelia Smith, Melba Oubre and Nancy Gautreau. We also shared it with Clarett Blount, Cheryl Carter and Donna Bowie. I'm happy to say that the crock pot was completely empty." As Chef would say, "bon appétit!"

Have a great month and keep the good news coming.

"Doc"

Dr. Mary L. Livers

The Daily Motivator

Feel the purpose

There are times when nothing can hold you back. Imagine making today one of those times.

There are moments when you're able to focus with absolute clarity and act with maximum effectiveness. You can make this moment one of those moments.

What makes the critical difference that creates those times of optimum performance? What makes the difference is a clear and unambiguous connection to purpose.

When you're doing what you know is right, your natural ability to achieve becomes fully engaged. It pulls you successfully through whatever challenges you may encounter.

The way to make this day a day of spectacular achievement is to connect your actions with authentic positive purpose.

Keep yourself aware of the good, solid meaningful reason behind what you do, and you'll do it with outstanding effectiveness.

Nothing can hold you back when the actions necessary to move forward are connected to the very essence of who you are.

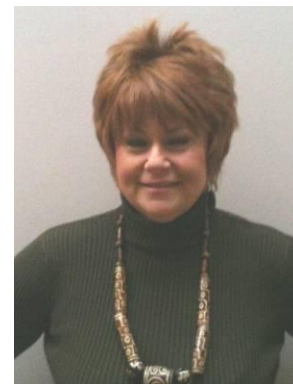
Feel the real purpose behind what you seek, and you will surely make it so.

— Ralph Marston

Staff Spotlight

Spotlight on...

**PPS Donna
Desoto,
Alexandria
Regional Office**



PPS Donna DeSoto has 33 years of state service, but she found her calling 18 ½ years ago when she joined OJJ as an Avoyelles Parish probation and parole officer.

“Donna has many years of service,” said **Regional Manager Johnny Qualls**. “She is the only probation officer to win the Don Wydra award, presented to her in 2007 by the LA Commission on Law Enforcement. Donna has been named Officer of the Quarter and Officer of the Year several times, and in 1998 she was named State Probation Officer of the Year by Corrections Secretary Richard Stahlder. Donna serves as our safety officer and training officer and she works with the Avoyelles Planning Board, Teen Court, Central LA Detention Board and numerous local community boards. Donna goes over and beyond for our youth.”

Donna began her state service as a pharmacy tech at Angola. She said she thoroughly enjoyed the work, filling prescriptions written by the doctors – if they were legible! “It was sometimes a challenge to read the writing,” Donna chuckled. “And you always had to remember that you were in a prison environment.” Donna lived, and still lives, in Avoyelles Parish, and had to cross the Mississippi River on a ferry daily to get to work. She recalled crossing the river at flood stage on a flat-bottom barge.

Donna was promoted to a position at Huey P. Long Hospital in Pineville. “I wanted to

better myself, and the promotion was a good step,” she said. Donna worked in the medical records area, reviewing case records, filing birth certificates and helping to prepare for inspections by the Joint Commission on Accreditation.

Another promotion took her to the Marksville welfare office, where her organizational skills provided the ability to organize and keep things in perspective. Donna left to assist her husband in their appliance and television rental company, but it was not long before she returned to state service in the area of child protection. She served as a caseworker assistant, and Donna said the job taught her a great deal and allowed her to grow as a person.

“Serving as a probation and parole officer...gave me the opportunity to have an impact on young people’s lives. It was the best thing that ever happened to me.”

She served the entire Alexandria region, taking calls concerning child abuse and analyzing them to make sure that all the needed information was provided. She assisted caseworkers in the field with investigations and removal of children from their homes. “This was a tremendous learning experience and a very emotional job,” Donna noted, “especially when infants and toddlers were involved. You can’t always separate your feelings from the job if you have any compassion at all – it weighs on you.”

“We all have accountability issues,” Donna said, “not just the paperwork, but being accountable for another human being. At the Office of Children’s Services (OCS), it’s a totally different aspect – there are allegations of abuse and neglect that can result in a fatality if appropriate action is not taken.”

Donna promoted to OCS Eligibility Specialist, knowing that she wanted to work

with people. It was not long before a position opened for a probation and parole officer in Avoyelles Parish, and Donna felt that this was her opportunity to blend in with folks and have an impact on young people’s lives. “It was the best thing that ever happened to me,” Donna stated.

Donna has recently achieved another professional milestone. She accepted a promotion to Probation and Parole Supervisor several weeks ago, so she is still adjusting to the changes in her daily routine. “This is a big adjustment for me,” she said, “I spent a long time on the road working with people directly. But I can still help our youth and families through the officers that I supervise, so I can still accomplish my goals. After all this time, I realized that we reach a time when we need to let the younger officers take on responsibility so they can grow in their profession.”

“Even in our darkest days, I did a lot of public speaking for the agency, trying to promote our work,” Donna said. “People needed to realize that when we encounter problems, we are going to work to get it right. People need to have faith in us, and know that we will overcome our challenges, pick ourselves up by our bootstraps and carry on. Today, everyone faces challenges and OJJ is no different.”

“I am proud of our agency and I love to represent OJJ to the public.”

“We need to remain motivated and keep our chins up,” Donna continued. “I love this agency and I put myself out there all the time for the betterment of the department. I am proud of our agency and I love to represent OJJ to the public.” Indeed, Donna does a great deal of public speaking and she makes presentations throughout the region she serves.

Donna said the biggest compliment she gets is when a young person on probation comes

back to visit and tells her how they are doing, perhaps to show off a new baby. Or, when she sees one of her kids in a public place, doing well, and she realizes that she has had an impact on young people's lives, even when some cases have resulted in a youth going into custody. "When I go home at night, I feel good, knowing that everything I did that day was good," Donna said. "We've all made choices, and if we were all judged by what we did as a youth, we could not hold our heads up."

"...we can tell when they have gotten their lives together...and then you can really feel that you are meeting that mission statement."

"Most of our youth really do make changes," Donna continued. "We can see it, we can tell when they have gotten their lives together and are going in the right direction. And then you can really feel that you are meeting that mission statement."

Donna has done a lot of grant writing, one grant for funds to open a hold-over shelter within the sheriff's department. A collaboration between the sheriff, the Police Jury, the court system and the Department of Education, the shelter is a small facility where youth can be placed for crisis or respite care through a judge's order. Donna complimented the court system for creating this avenue for at-risk youth.

Another of Donna's passions and professional "babies" is the Teen Court of Avoyelles, Inc. Donna says, "The Teen Court is awesome. The program started in 1997 and I take pride in the fact that we are still in operation. This is a court process wherein youth who have committed misdemeanor crimes, are first time offenders and who admit to the charge, are allowed to go through teen court instead of juvenile court. The district attorney's office allows the case to be brought through teen court as opposed to prosecuting the case in

juvenile court. The jury is made up of volunteers from the high schools in the parish. The presiding judge is our state representative, Robert Johnson. High school students serve as jury members and defense and prosecuting attorneys. Once the jury deliberates and decides on a sentence, the youth must then carry out the sentence ordered by the jury. Once this is completed, the file is given back to the district attorney's office, the charges are dismissed and the youth does not have a criminal record. Isn't that awesome?"

"As adults, we understand the value of having a clean record," Donna continued. "This also decreases the number of youth appearing in court, reduces the court dockets and serves as a diversion. The defendant is mandated to appear one time as a jury member. This gives them the opportunity to sit on the other side and be part of justice system in a positive way. As a probation officer, it is very refreshing for me to have 70 or more kids show up each month and volunteer their time."

"...two students who participated in teen court...went to law school...and are now practicing attorneys..."

"This program is recognized by the National Youth Court Association, and students may use their involvement as volunteers on their resumes' for college," Donna added. "We are also proud of the fact that two students who participated in teen court when they were in high school ended up going to law school, graduated, passed the bar and now are practicing attorneys in Marksville. They have helped with teen court as well, so their involvement has come full circle."

On a personal note, Donna said it was a big thing when she and her family moved to Spring Bayou, a wildlife management area. One of the challenges was that everyone in that community used well water that had an

overabundance of iron. "You could not even wash white things in the laundry," Donna said. "We had to do something about that. We needed to get town water to our community." With the help of Congressmen John Breaux and Clyde Holloway, Donna succeeded in getting "town water" for the community in 1989. "People said it would never happen because this is a flood area," Donna said. "But we got it, and we still live there. Now I'm president of the Spring Bayou Waterworks."

"My heart is with OJJ and the youth and families that I serve."

Donna has been married to husband James for 31 years. She describes him as "very loyal and a true Marine." Donna and James have one son, Blake, 26. "Blake is absolutely incredible," Donna said. "It's a mother's right to be able to brag on our children and I take every opportunity to do so. He is wonderful. He never meets a stranger, he has a big heart and wonderful personality. He can entertain you with his 'Boudreaux and Thibodeaux' jokes. He lives in Baton Rouge where he works in marketing, and he tells me all the time he has the best of both worlds. He tells us that Baton Rouge has all of the great restaurants, shopping and cultural activities, but he is only an hour and half away from the sportsman's paradise at Spring Bayou."

Donna adds, "We live in a wildlife management area and I really do have wood ducks, raccoons and alligators all around, with a backdrop of cypress trees covered with Spanish moss. I have a Jack Russell terrier that loves to tree a squirrel and a schnauzer that loves to sleep. Again, the best of both worlds."

Donna serves on several boards in her community and is also an active member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church. "I was a member of the choir, but it became difficult to sing in Latin, so I gave that part up for now," Donna quipped.

"My heart is with OJJ and the youth and families that I serve," Donna said. "I really do find peace within myself, knowing that I have the ability to make an impact on a young person and help them to become a productive citizen in our community, just as the mission statement says."

Donna found her true professional calling in service to OJJ and the youth and families we serve, and she lives the mission every day.

CQIS POLICY UPDATES

Policies approved in October:

- A.2.24 Staff Development and Training Plan 10/4/11
- A.2.32 Certification of Compliance and Internal Controls for all Personnel Actions 10/4/11
- A.3.15 Prohibited Solicitation on Secure Care Facility Grounds 10/28/11
- A.5.10 Information Technology (IT) Technical Support 10/4/11
- B.6.4 Accident and Injury (A&I) Evaluations 10/21/11
- B.8.15 Family Liaison Between Families of Youth and Youth Services 10/26/11
- C.2.6 Use of Interventions-Secure Care 10/7/11
- C.5.2 Central Office and Regional Office Duty Officers and Facility Administrative Duty Officers (ADOs) Reporting of Serious Incidents 10/24/11
- D.9.5 Service Delivery/Case Management 10/28/11
- D.9.7 Financial Assessment, Medicaid Eligibility and Parental Contributions 10/28/11

Rescinded:

- DYS 9.7 "Financial Assessment, Medicaid Eligibility & Parental Contributions 10/28/11
- DYS 10.5A Receipt, Security and Disbursement of Funds Collected from Juveniles 10/20/11
- DYS 2.2 Criminal Record Check 10/7/11
- DYS 9.11 Monthly Reports 10/7/11

OJJ Supervisor Training

By Fran Martin, Director of Staff Development

Five sessions of supervisor training were held around the state in October. The topic for the sessions was the *Leadership Manual: Thoughts and Suggestions for New and Emerging OJJ Leaders*. The manual contains insightful information for OJJ leaders on a number of specific areas, which are designed to provide guidance for current leaders and for supporting the development of future leaders in OJJ. To introduce the *Leadership Manual* to our supervisors during the October supervisor training sessions, facilitators for activities included the OJJ executive/administrative team, facility directors and regional managers.

The pre-training assignment was for all supervisors to read the *Leadership Manual* before attending the training session, in order to fully participate in the activities. Three sections of the manual were reviewed during the training, including "A Leader's Responsibilities to the Public," "A Leader's Responsibilities to Employees" and "A Leader's Responsibilities to Youth." Interactive activities were used to review the information in each of these sections.

The exemplary leadership practice, "Enable Others to Act," from *The Leadership Challenge* by James M. Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner, was also on the agenda.

The training sessions on the *Leadership Manual* were a great success. Supervisors said they liked reviewing the new *Leadership Manual* and the interaction with other supervisors during activities. Evaluations also had positive comments about the variety and expertise of the facilitators for the activities and the length of the training day.

For supervisors who were unable to attend the October supervisor training sessions, the video

of one of the training sessions is posted on SharePoint.

The OJJ Community Outreach PowerPoint presentation was also reviewed and discussed during the training. Staff are encouraged to use this PowerPoint to present information about OJJ to community groups and other interested groups to help them become informed about OJJ and our work with youth and their families. Possible groups can include community civic groups, high school and college classes and student groups, and other agencies that work with youth and families. The PowerPoint has been sent to all facility directors and regional managers and is available on SharePoint.

Two supervisor training events will be scheduled in 2012. More information will be available as the details are finalized.

Words to Live By

**Contributed by Central Office Attorney
Cynthia Eyre**

"The great enemy of clear language is insincerity. When there is a gap between one's real and one's declared aims, one turns as it were instinctively to long words and exhausted idioms, like a cuttlefish spurting out ink."

– George Orwell, "Politics and the English Language," 1946

"The difference between the almost right word and the right word is really a large matter – it's the difference between the lightning bug and the lightning."

– Mark Twain, 1888

LAW OF QUANTUM MECHANICS

**When you try to prove to
someone that your car is making
a certain noise, it won't. When
you try to prove that a machine
won't work, it will.**

Success Stories

New Orleans/Jefferson OJJ

We are pleased to announce that **Jonathan M.** obtained his GED in September. Jonathan attended Delgado Community College's Adult Education classes. He is currently in driver's education class and plans to obtain his driver's license soon. Jonathan is gainfully employed and plans to attend Delgado Community College in the spring. He is in the process of completing the requirements for enrollment.

Congratulations also go out to Jonathan for obtaining a certificate of graduation from Greenpath. Jonathan successfully completed the drug education class and graduated in full compliance with the program. In addition, the facility certified that Jonathan fully grasped the knowledge to continue his journey of recovery from substance abuse. He has remained drug-free according to self reports and negative drugs screens. His probation officer is extremely proud of him.

Jonathan is living proof that once the desire to change has been implanted, with steady encouragement and support, seeds of success will manifest. Congratulations once again Jonathan. Job well done!

1 Youth, 2 Proud Regions: Lake Charles and Hammond Brag on the Same Youth

Youth Highlight

By Hammond PPO1 Jamie Oertel and SSC4 Lori Wagner

Gerald M., a youth from the Slidell caseload, has been making great strides in his rehabilitation. Gerald is currently a senior in high school. Gerald is enrolled in gifted courses at the high school and he is also participating in a dual enrollment program with McNeese State University, earning college credit! The "icing on the cake" is that Gerald is also the starting running back on his

high school's football team. At a recent game Gerald scored the winning touchdown! He also led all rushers in a game against Bolton with 209 yards on 22 carries and FIVE TOUCHDOWNS! Way to go Gerald! In addition to all of that, he is working towards a TOPS scholarship and has also had some interest from football scouts from various colleges! We all can't wait to see what awaits Gerald in his future! We are very proud of all of his hard work and devotion to his future.

Youth has Great Success on the Gridiron From Lake Charles OJJ

Youth **Gerald M.**, supervised by **PPO3 Alexis Heflin**, was featured in the newspaper for his school football achievements. The article began, "Running back Gerald M. scored five touchdowns in leading his team to a 47-28 victory in non-district game. Gerald gained a career high 215 yards, propelled by a strong offensive line effort. 'We have been waiting for Gerald to have a breakout game,' said his coach."

Thibodaux Regional Office

Congratulations

Employee of the Month

PPO Peter Pobocik was selected **Employee of the Month**. He is a valuable asset to our team here in Thibodaux.

Celebrations

Thibodaux OJJ celebrated Boss' Day in honor of our **Regional Manager, Angela T. Koenig**. She was given an appreciation card with gift certificates to various restaurants.

Thibodaux OJJ celebrated fall by having an awesome luncheon. The menu consisted of hot dogs, chili, nachos, homemade dip and the toppings to go along. And of course, we cannot forget about the delicious desserts, homemade carrot cake, fudge, brownies,

pecan pie, cookies and cupcakes. A huge thanks to those who helped put this festive event together! The food and decorations were fantastic.

We also had a Halloween costume contest to go along with the fall theme. See some of the creative costumes below.



Halloween costume contestants vie for honors at the fall festival. From left: Tressa Gros, Vicky Marcel, Peter Pobocik, Allison Lirette, Theresa Molliere and Andi Ford.



Regional Manager Angela T. Koenig, left, presented a plaque to retired **Administrative Coordinator Connie Becnel**, in appreciation of her 34 years of service to the Office of Juvenile Justice.

Tallulah Regional Office

October was as busy month for Tallulah officers and staff, with PPCT recertification and firearm training on the range. Everyone succeeded in refreshing their skills, and were able to spend quality time spent interacting with co-workers.



After a day at the range, Tallulah OJJ officers posed for a group picture and shared some laughs thanks to PPO Fred Laing.

ERT Success

Tallulah OJJ's Emergency Response Team helped to successfully recover a Swanson youth who failed to return from a furlough.

Training Attended and Conducted

RM Ruth Stephens, along with supervisors **Johnnie Bowman**, **Margo Corulla** and **Patricia Dense**, attended supervisor training in Monroe along with staff from the other north Louisiana offices. The agenda included the OJJ *Leadership Manual* and a leadership challenge in Exemplary Leadership Practice – Enable Others to Act.

PPO Truett Glass provided staff with SAVRY Booster training.

PPO Fred Laing attended a POST re-trainer class at the Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office training academy.

PPO Truett Glass was invited to speak to Mrs. Owens' 10th grade social studies class at Tensas Academy in St. Joseph. The class is studying the criminal justice system and Mrs. Owens invited several members of the law enforcement community to speak to her class.

Truett presented the OJJ Community Outreach PowerPoint and spoke to the youth on the dangers of peer associations and use of illegal drugs.

Condolences

PPO LaJuana Harrell recently lost her father, **George Johnson**, of Rayville. OJJ extends our heartfelt condolences to LaJuana and her family.

Get Well Wishes

PPO Janet Pierce has been out of the office recently, accompanying her **husband, Calvin Pierce**, to M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston for cancer treatment. Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult time and we pray for Calvin's recovery.

Staff celebrated our one October birthday. Honoree **PPO Kim Green** was treated to cake and ice cream and a staff singalong version of "Happy Birthday."

LAW OF CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

The probability of meeting someone you know increases dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

Swanson Center for Youth

We Said Farewell to Director Carolyn Atkins



On October 5 Swanson said farewell to **Director Carolyn Atkins**. But, before we could say our goodbyes, y'all know we had to eat! On Monday, some of "the girls" got together with Director Atkins' and had one of her favorites – pizza! On Tuesday, the administrative staff had a potluck luncheon and on Wednesday, the teaching staff got together and fed the director.

In between all the eating, Director Atkins made rounds to every dorm to individually say goodbye to all of her "angels." While making rounds, Director Atkins received from some of the youth poems that they had written.

"I Will Truly Miss U"

By Jacob C.

Goodbyes are not forever; Goodbyes are not
the end.
They simply mean I'll miss you until we meet
again.
A new adventure starting filled with sun, sea
and sand.
I'd like to wish you luck as your horizons
expand.
It's time to say adios, although I'd really
rather say
ver usted de nuevo cos we'll meet again
someday.
Sorry you are leaving, we're sad to see you go.
When you feel homesick, we're always here
you know.
Don't forget to keep in touch, by post, letter
or phone

But of course we'd love to see you, there's no
place like home.
Sorry you're leaving, your loss will be greatly
felt
But I won't over exaggerate and say my heart
will melt.
It's really hard to say goodbye to such a friend
and pal
With tears in eyes and lump in throat, Adios!
Au revoir! Farewell!

"MHTU Is Going To Miss You"

By MHTU youth and staff

We know we weren't the best behaved that
you've ever taught
We know we got angry, much more than we
ought.
We didn't pay attention every minute of the
day
And admittedly, our favorite time was when
we were naughty and at play.
Yet determinedly you were patient with us,
putting us to the test
Encouraging our efforts as you made us
attempt to do our best.
Some lessons were a challenge but you taught
us how to cope
Each day we grew in confidence, ability and
hope.
We really now appreciate that you made our
stay fun
Thank you very much Ms. Atkins for all
you've said and done.
We never forget a leader whether good or bad
that's true
But it's with the fondest of affection and love
that we'll remember you.

Pink Out Wednesday Celebrated

OJJ and CCS staff at Swanson gathered together for **Pink Out Wednesday**. Staff, male and female, wore their pink in support of breast cancer awareness. We began with a prayer led by **Instructor Lorenzo Brown**.

After the prayer, pink and white balloons were released in memory of those who have

lost the battle and for those who are still fighting.



The balloon release

Afterwards, staff were invited to enjoy cupcakes and were given information/pamphlets on breast cancer, provided by **CCS Administrative Assistant LaShonda James**.



*OJJ and CCS staff who participated in **Pink Out Wednesday**.*

RSAT Graduation Held

October 31 was more than just Halloween day for the youth who graduated from the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program (RSAT). It was a day of celebration as the 13 youth accepted their plaques for the work they did and dedication they displayed during 16 weeks of working the Substance Abuse program. The graduates were surrounded by their peers, along with a host of counselors, to show their support. The

plaques were given out by **Deputy Director Nadira Ricks** and **Social Service Counselor Charles Kline**. Afterwards, the youth enjoyed **Social Service Counselor Alma Holmes'** homemade chili, served with hotdogs and nachos, and a cake (shown below) to top it off. The staff of Willow (RSAT) dormitory would like to wish the graduates a big congratulation again on a job well done.



Walker Family Firsts

October 29th was opening day of rifle (deer) season in Jackson Parish where **Administrative Assistant Kristi Walker** and her family hunt. That Saturday turned out to be a big day for both Kristi and **her son Jackson**, age 7. During the evening hunt, Kristi finally got her first "real" buck - a 170 pound, 10 point (her only other buck was a 3 point a few years back). Not only that, Jackson killed his very first deer (poor lil' knot head!) with his papaw. Yes, that was a good day for the Walkers!



Kristi, left, and son Jackson with their trophy deer.

Shreveport Regional Office

Congratulations

Employee of the Month

Our **Employee of the Month** was **PPO Fabrecia Roberson!** She is an amazing asset to our team! Congratulations!

Atejia Glover was promoted from Administrative Coordinator 3 to Probation/Parole Officer 1.

Welcome

We welcomed two new Probation Officers this month – **PPO1 Atejia Glover** and **PPO 1 Jason Brown**.

Internal Audit was Successful

We held an internal audit, and overall we did very well. We were very proud of ourselves, and some shining stars of the audit:

PPO2 LaNita Lars -100% supervision and IV-E.

PPO2 Jessica Flores - 100% supervision and IV-E.

PPO3 Jennifer Hill - 100% supervision

PPO2 Alan Glover - 100% supervision

PPO3 Sandy Ersoff - 100% supervision

PPO3 John Whitlock - 100% IV-E

PPO2 Brandy Stratton - 100% IV-E

Community Events and Training

RM Kristi Martin, Program Specialist Jan Crain and **PPS Kim Carlisle** attended a Job Fair hosted by Goodwill.

Rutherford House held its annual Halloween party on Halloween. It was a great way for the kids to let loose and have a good time. **PPS Rick Ladner, PPS Kim Carlisle, PPO3 Terri Harber, PPO3 Kristen McKee,** and (brand new officer, on his first day) **PPO1 Jason Brown** all attended the celebration. Rick

Ladner and Terri participated in the Cake Walk and took home some goodies!

The Detention Conference was held recently at the Clarion Hotel. **PPO3 Todd Carlisle** conducted training on Motivational Interviewing at the conference.

All the supervisors - **RM Kristi Martin, PPS Rick Ladner, PPS Kim Carlisle, PPS Guy May, PPS Steve Martino and PPS Mitchell Lane** - attended the supervisor training class in Monroe.

PPS Steve Martino and several officers traveled to Swanson for the quarterly staffing.

PPO3 Kristen McKee attended the OJJ Training Advisory Council meeting in Baton Rouge.

PS Jan Crain and **PPO3 Jennifer Hill** attended a Mental Health Train the Trainers class in Baton Rouge.

PPO3 Kristen McKee and **PPO3 Jennifer Hill** attended Principles of Adult Learning training at the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office Regional Training Academy. They are now certified trainers.

A big happy birthday went out to **PPO1 Ciera Murphy, PPO2 Jessica Flores, PPO3 John Whitlock, PPS Kim Carlisle** and **PS Jan Crain**.

LAW OF THE THEATER AND STADIUM

At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle always arrive last. They leave their seats several times to go for food and drink, bathroom breaks, and leave early before the event is over. The folks in the aisle seats arrive early, never move, have long legs and stay until the bitter end. Aisle folk are also very surly.

New Orleans/Jefferson Regional Office

Congratulations

Employee of the Month



PPO Daniel Mingea was selected October Employee of the Month. Danny has proven to be a team player, managing extra duties when his team was short-staffed this month. He aggressively applied himself to the task and maintained a positive attitude while managing the extra responsibilities. Danny is a valuable asset to our team in New Orleans and to OJJ.



October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month

This is the perfect opportunity to thank the New Orleans OJJ staff for embracing and supporting the calendar of events scheduled for **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**, through their deeds and kind words.

We would also like to give a shout out to our community partners, Department of Corrections Adult Probation and Parole Office in New Orleans, Work Force Development, New Orleans staff and Reginellie's Pizza, and other community partners. Thank you to our parents who shared their stories with OJJ staff.

It is our prayer that our contribution will assist the Susan G. Komen Foundation in getting one step closer in finding a cure for breast cancer. We collected a total of **\$401.14**.

OJJ Son Meets Saints' Tom Benson



PPO Dorothy Crump's 9 year old son, **Quinten Crump**, was given the opportunity to meet with Saints owner **Tom Benson** before the Saints/Buccaneers football game at the newly named Mercedes Benz Superdome. Quinten was there with his 'Son of Saints Mentor' **Bivian 'Sonny' Lee III**, whose father was a former Saints

football player. Quinten was most excited when he was given the opportunity to wear a Saints coach's Super Bowl XLIV Ring. Go Saints! Who knows, we may have a future Saints player in our family.

Natchitoches Regional Office

Employee of the Month



*Wendy Crow,
Administrative
Coordinator 3*

Several of our officers attended the Fall Festival at Ware Youth Center to show support for our kids.

National Bosses Day Celebrated

Staff recognized national Bosses' Day by enjoying lunch with **RM Randall Hill**. We served pizza, soft drinks and ice cream. **AC3 Monica Breedlove**, **AC4 Rosa Brownlee**, and **AC3 Wendy Crow** also treated Randy to lunch at a local restaurant.



Above and below: staff enjoyed lunch with the boss to celebrate Bosses' Day.



LAW OF BIOMECHANICS

When working with sticky substances, as soon as your hands become coated with glue, grease, oil, etc., you will begin to itch.

The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

Community Involvement

A number of officers attended the Special Olympics held at Northwestern State University.

Below left, PPO3 Ashley Ward Meacham and right, PPO2 Heather Christophe.



Below left: Intern Reatha Aaron; right, PPO2 Brenda Sarpy, at Special Olympics.



Congratulations



PPO1 Todd Roszell killed a 10 point buck on the first day of deer season.

Happy Birthday

Birthday wishes to Transport Officer Rachal Martin, PPO3 Ashley Ward Meacham and PPO1 Kelvin Jones.

Monroe Regional Office

Monroe OJJ welcomed a surprise visit from **Deputy Assistant Secretary Sean Hamilton** and **Bridge City Director Joseph Powe**. They came by the office to personally thank staff for their assistance at Bridge City.

Monroe OJJ staff celebrated National Bosses' Day. **RM Patty Newman** was recognized by her supervisors for her **OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP!**

Outstanding Service in the Community

Transport Officer Credell Scott was transporting a parent from court when he witnessed an accident in which a lady's vehicle was hit at an intersection and overturned. He turned around and went back to the scene and while someone called 911, Credell stayed with the lady, who was upside down, strapped in by her seat belt, until emergency services arrived. Monroe OJJ is very proud of Credell for going above and beyond to assist a person in need.

PPS Orlando Davis was invited to participate in the SCY Community Advisory Committee. Orlando enjoyed the experience.

Training Sessions Attended

Program Specialist Walteree Barnes and **PPS Gail Wilson** attended the Mental Health Training for Trainers meeting in Baton Rouge. The objective is to provide consistent statewide mental health training for OJJ staff.

Regional managers and supervisors from five regions met at the Public Administration Building in Monroe for our Quarterly Leadership Supervisor Training. Portions of the OJJ *Leadership Manual* were presented by **Natchitoches RM Randall Hill**, **Alexandria RM Johnny Qualls**, **Tallulah RM Ruth Stephens**, **Shreveport RM Kristi Martin** and **SCY Acting Director/Principal William Lee**.

AC4 Gay Nivens and **AC3 Kashka Flintroy** attended ISIS training in Baton Rouge.

PPO3 Jennifer Bible completed POST Instructor Recertification in Plain Dealing. She is re-certified for another year, and has served in the position for OJJ since 2004. Good job, Jennifer!

Thanks

Mr. Michael Flowers from Family Plus recently visited with Monroe OJJ staff to present information on their new MST Program. We appreciate having another community resource available for our youth.

October was the month for our annual United Way Campaign. Thanks to **PPO2 Jeremy Keyes** for taking charge of the successful campaign.

Congratulations!

Monroe OJJ would like to congratulate **PPO2 Cheryl Pringle** and **PPO2 Jeremy Keyes** on their upcoming wedding. The couple will be married in Monroe on January 28, 2012.

Lake Charles Regional Office

RM Ann Vick recently designated a "stay in day" and she asked staff to brainstorm on ways to improve our services and relationships with our clients. We discussed getting civic organizations involved to provide extra, voluntary services for our kids.

PPO3 Delisa Clark volunteered for a survey project to get information on youth's interests. **RM Ann Vick** said this was discussed at the recent leadership retreat experience. She also asked each staff member: "What do **YOU** do to meet the mission? How does your job contribute to our mission?"

LAW OF PHYSICAL SURFACES

The chance of spilling something greasy is directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet.

Staff Gets Together to Perform Community Service

During the October staff meeting, **PPO3 Monet Newman** suggested our office consider volunteering for community service to rebuild Millennium Park. The office supported the suggestion. **PPS Melissa Cross** recommended that OJJ staff dress alike for the Millennium Park rebuild to show the group effort and show the community who we are, for positive publicity of us giving back.

Program Specialist Karli Pullard and **PPO3 Monet Newman** designed "OJJ Cares" bright, orange tee shirts for good public relations, to identify who we are as a group. Monet and many other officers actively recruited OJJ kids (probationers/custody kids) to assist in the Millennium Park rebuild to "Model the Way" of giving back to the community. The park was built several years ago by volunteers and was burned down by arson about a year ago. We felt that this project would be good for public awareness of OJJ. Most of the staff attended.



Tee shirts identify Lake Charles OJJ staff.





PPS Ken Vidrine

PS Karli Pullard and PPO3 Ronald Gilchrist



RM Ann Vick



**Left: PS Karli Pullard and PPO3 Alexis Heflin.
Right: PPO Stefanie Krygowski, PS Karli Pullard and PPO3 Ronald Gilchrist**



PPO2 Angie Stevens



**PPO3 Alexis Heflin
and PPO3 Fred Fontenot**



PPO2 Hollie Comeaux and AC3 Erline Pierce



PPO3 Alexis Heflin

Staff Just Keeps on Giving

AC3 Erline Pierce volunteered to lead the drive to fill Thanksgiving Dinner food baskets. The idea of giving was embraced by the office. Erline gave out lists of needed items, sought recipient families, and organized the food drive. **Thank you, Erline.**

PPO3 Ronald Gilchrist and **PPO 3 Fred Fontenot** recently went out to the Juvenile Detention Center to hang out and play basketball with the OJJ youth. They also played dominos with some of the boys. These kids enjoy thinking games and challenging the officers in appropriate ways.

PPO3 Monet Newman recently paid a youth's public school enrollment fee (\$30) without requesting reimbursement. J. H. just returned home from non secure placement. His family is in legitimate need, and Monet wanted to help. J. H. is being raised by his aunt, because his mother is in a nursing home. The aunt is also raising her very young grandchildren because her adult daughter died during childbirth. This family struggles financially but has many strengths. Thanks to Monet for demonstrating generosity in helping them.

PPO3 Rebecca Harmon continues to write and serve as a pen-pal to multiple LA National Guard Youth Challenge Program (YCP) youth. She is receiving mail on a weekly basis. She has sent stamps and hand written letters of encouragement. YCP participants have expressed great appreciation for her time, and they keep the return letters coming. Rebecca now has multiple requests to be a YCP mentor for these kids. When you show you care.... kids respond!

PPO2 Hollie Comeaux has been advocating and working hard to recruit a donated bicycle and a bicycle lock for a young man on probation, with transportation challenges. She is encouraging him to be self sufficient and is helping to provide a way for him to be able to get to his own appointments without having to rely on OJJ for weekly transportation.

PPO3 Fred Fontenot, PPO 3 Alexis Heflin, and PPO Monet Newman rewarded several kids from Boys Village for making 700 points (100% behavior compliance).

Thanks to Staff

AC4 Annette Stoddard does an excellent job in circulating information to staff. She communicated holiday dates as soon as they were made available. Thank you, Annette, for taking care of us!

PPO3 Ronald Gilchrist is doing great job as transport coordinator. He is communicating the needs of the office. This responsibility is extremely time consuming!

PPO3 Garrick Chambers volunteered to clean many officers' weapons in preparation for the annual weapons inspections. Garrick is very giving and willing to help others.

Bosses' Day was recognized by staff. A great big **thank you** to all the **Lake Charles OJJ staff** who gave generously and made the supervisors feel appreciated. Your efforts are extremely appreciated. What a great team!

Thanks to those in the office who frequently volunteer on a moment's notice when assistance is needed. Y'all are invaluable.

Training Sessions Attended

RM Ann Vick attended a conference in Lafayette to discuss services for grandparents raising grandchildren.

RM Ann Vick and **PPO3 Delisa Clark** attended a ribbon cutting at Positive Connections, a school for kids with mental health challenges, who struggle to function in a regular academic setting.

Halloween Inspires Staff to Laugh

RM Ann Vick authorized the staff to dress up for Halloween to inspire employees' ability to laugh at ourselves. **PPS Melissa Cross** encouraged participation and generated lists for potluck food.

The following employees dressed up: **PPO2 Angie Stevens** as an Illegal Alien; **AC3 Erlene Pierce** as a skeleton with a torn tee-shirt; **PPS Melissa Cross** as Superwoman; **RM Ann Vick** as Richard Simmons; **PPO3 Monet Newman** as a Witch in Training; **AC4 Annette Stoddard** as Catwoman; **PPO2 Hollie Comeaux** as a hippie, and **PPO2 Garrick Chambers** as... himself (very scary.)



Left: RM Ann Vick as Richard Simmons. Right: PPS Melissa Cross as Superwoman.



Above left: PPO3 Monet Newman as a witch in training, and PPO2 Hollie Comeaux as a hippie. Right: Monet as a witch on her broom.

LAW OF COMMERCIAL MARKETING STRATEGIES

As soon as you find a product that you really like, they stop making it.



PPO2 Angie Stevens, as an illegal alien.



Left: AC4 Annette Stoddard as Catwoman. Right: PPO2 Garrick Chambers as Garrick.



Front Row: Annette Stoddard; Angie Stevens. Back Row: Ann Vick, Hollie Comeaux, Monet Newman, Melissa Cross, Erline Pierce.



Enjoying Halloween lunch together: Delisa Clark, Alexis Heflin, Angie Stevens, Hollie Comeaux, Jeff Haley, Fred Fontenot, Erline Pierce, Ken Vidrine, Garrick Chambers, Rebecca Harmon and Annette Stoddard.



Halloween lunch group: Delisa Clark, Alexis Heflin, Stefanie Krygowski, Angie Stevens, Hollie Comeaux and Jeff Haley.



Erline Pierce, Ken Vidrine, Garrick Chambers, Rebecca Harmon, and Annette Stoddard.

DOCTORS' LAW

If you don't feel well, make an appointment with the doctor. By the time you get there, you will feel better. But don't make an appointment and you will stay sick.

Lafayette/Opelousas Regional Office

Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences to **PS Patty Thomas**, whose father recently passed away. Please keep Patty and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Staff Give and Give Some More

PPO3 Kevin Broussard helped run Teurlings Catholic High School's annual debate tournament. Kevin coordinated the event of Student Congress, and judged additional debate rounds.

PPO Lakaisha Lewis completed a transport to the Youth Challenge Program (YCP) in Carville on a Saturday. She was assigned the transport late Friday afternoon. Lakaisha did not inform the transport coordinator that she had a birthday party scheduled for her child that Saturday. Rather, she completed the transport without hesitation or complaints. She postponed her child's birthday party until she arrived home in the afternoon, being delayed even further due to traffic caused by the LSU home game.

Lakeisha is also a certified ZUMBA instructor. She recently helped to organize ZUMBA classes at the city park in New Iberia on a Saturday. Tickets sold for \$20 and proceeds were donated to the Lydia Breast Cancer Association in honor of breast cancer awareness month. ZUMBA is a high energy, dance-fitness workout.

Lakaisha's husband owns a barber shop. One of her clients could not enroll at the Alternative Center for Education until he got a haircut. Lakaisha offered the client a free haircut at her husband's barber shop.

PPO1 Justin Beasley completed a PDI on a youth in Iberia Parish, following an order from the court. Prior to court, Justin made a

referral to OCDD based on the child's mental capacity and his mother's inability to properly raise him, as found by a DCFS home study. The court placed the youth in OJJ secure custody. Prior to court, an ISC meeting was also arranged. Following court the meeting was held. At that meeting, OCDD agreed that a placement in an OCDD home would be the best option for the youth. They secured an interview date for the child. Justin worked with OCDD and St. Martin Detention Center to facilitate the interview, which was successful. The youth was accepted by the OCDD facility in Baton Rouge. Justin transported the youth to the facility the next day, as OCDD was unable to arrange transportation until the following week. Justin worked diligently with OCDD staff to ensure a smooth transition for the youth.

PPO3 Mina Travis, along with the Daughters of the American Revolution, collected tee shirts for Louisiana veterans. The tee shirts were donated to numerous veteran homes throughout Louisiana.

PPO3 Deacon Jones donated pumpkins, soft drinks and chips to the Boys and Girls Club of Acadiana-Grandberrey Unit, for a Halloween party for its members.

PPO3 Mina Travis, PPO1 Lakaisha Lewis, PPO1 Jamie Baronet and PPS Courtney Holderman participated in **"Paint the Town Pink,"** an event hosted by Painting With A Twist in Lafayette. They painted pink fleur de lis in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness month. Some of the proceeds were donated to breast cancer research.

PPO3 Kristi Eames and PPO Jeffry Edwards accompanied **RM Susan Miller** to the SWAMP meet at the Robicheaux Center in Lafayette. This event allowed them to interact with community resources in an effort to expand available resources to our juvenile population. Each of them returned with a wealth of new information that was shared with all probation officers and supervisors.

Jetson Center for Youth

Scenic Alternative High School Partners with Louisiana Technical College and Southern University

The week of October 17 was about expanding the partnerships with the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) and Southern University, and making plans to offer post-secondary training for our GED students.

Asst. Secretary Dr. Girard Melancon, Director of Education Kim Mims, Title I Director Ed Green and Principal Ronnie Knox met with LCTCS management to discuss the possibility of offering auto mechanics education at Jetson. Jetson will employ the LCTCS instructor to teach on-site here. Jetson will provide the space and supplies. The program will lead to certification in some aspects of auto mechanics. The target date to begin the classes is January 2012.

"Our collective thinking is that 'no child will be left behind,'" Principal Knox said.

Dr. Melancon and Mr. Knox also met with the Southern University Agricultural Department to continue developing a partnership that began this summer. Southern's Agriculture Department will assist Jetson youth by providing a Life Skills and Parenting Program, beginning in January 2012.

"These partnerships are designed to offer our youth more options. By engaging other agencies and their expert staff, Jetson can afford to provide more educational opportunities for the youth than would be possible without their assistance," Principal Knox said.

**LAW OF PHYSICAL
APPEARANCES**
If the clothes fit, they're ugly.

Awards Day Celebration at Scenic Alternative High School

It was a beautiful day for a celebration, especially one centered on our youth. The program captured the essence of success. The program began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by **Youth Isaiah B.** followed by the invocation by **DaMarcus G. Cody S.** welcomed the audience and **Christopher G.** recited a poem entitled "Almost." **Steven C.** introduced the speaker, **State Representative Dalton Honore.**

Rep. Honore encouraged the youth to care about themselves by summarizing his life. He was born in New Orleans and his family moved to Scotlandville where he went to elementary and middle school. He decided to drop out of high school and enter the military at 17 years of age. He learned in the military that education is the key to success. He studied and received a GED.

After the military years, he entered Southern University, dropped out, and reentered and graduated. During his time he married and needed to earn a living for his new wife and soon, their children. He went to school during the day and worked at night.

In 1965, Rep. Honore was the first black man hired as an East Baton Rouge Deputy Sheriff. Later he was promoted to captain. He continued to work at night as a deputy sheriff for 30 years. He also was the owner of a business for 20 years.

Rep. Honore advised the youth that when they are looking for a job, they should dress appropriately. He told the youth to care for themselves and to earn people's trust. "Education is the key to success," he said. "If you want something out of life, keep working toward that goal."

He ended his talk with this advice. "It's not a job if you enjoy your work; your attitude means everything on a job. The opportunity is before you: make a good first impression."



Dignitaries at the Awards Day celebration: Director Daron Brown, Rep. Dalton Honore, DAS Sean Hamilton and Principal Ronnie Knox.

DeMarcus G. presented Rep. Honore with a certificate of appreciation for speaking at the celebration.

Student awards followed, with each teacher presenting a certificate of achievement for most improved to students in reading, English, math, science, social studies, life skills, C-Tech, and horticulture.



Presenting an award to a youth are Principal Ronnie Knox, Instructor Samuel Butler, DAS Sean Hamilton. Seated: Rep. Dalton Honore and Director Daron Brown.

Award recipients were **DeMarcus G.** in reading; **Steven C., Christopher G., Keith B.** and **Ulanza H.** in English; **Develle W.** in math; **Ulanza H.** in science; **Andre S.** in social studies; **Ulanza H., Christopher G., Keith B., Chafronde A., Daniel J., Andre**

S., Steven T. and **Daniel J.** in life skills, **Collin A., Jyquincee C.** and **Daniel J.** in C-Tech; and **Victor G., Romero R.** and **Dequante W.** in Horticulture.

Principal Knox presented two awards to students and two awards to staff. The Principal's Award for outstanding performance and behavior was given to **Romero R.** An award for the student with the highest GED score and for achieving a perfect 800 on reading on the GED exam went to **Cody S.**

Administrative Assistant Anne Carter was presented an award for outstanding performance, and **Director of Education Kim Mims** received recognition for her support for Scenic Alternative High School and encouragement of all of our students.

Closing remarks were made by **Program Manager Belinda Thomas** and **Director Daron Brown.**

Changing Our Stripes Positive Behavior at Scenic Alternative High School

Students and staff were recently inspired by a special speaker, "Silky Slim," Mr. Arthur Reed. After a welcome, prayer, and Pledge of Allegiance, the speaker was introduced. He delivered a message that was both heartfelt and positive.

Mr. Reed spoke to the audience from the viewpoint that "I've been exactly where you are." In fact, he was a student at Louisiana Training Institute in the early days. After his juvenile time, he continued a life of crime which ended him up with a lengthy stay at Angola. His rap sheet was many pages long. He told the youth that he could not read or do math, even into adulthood. He only learned to read after many years of not being able to read his letters from home.

Mr. Reed showed slides of when he was young until his early days of "hanging out on

the streets." He was released from Angola in 1996. It was then he decided to change his life and with God's help, that is exactly what happened.

Mr. Reed has written three books, made two movies, and is currently working on a documentary entitled, *American Youth Behind Bars*. He stated that gang banging was and is not beneficial for anybody. "All the money and possessions are not worth doing wrong," he said, "because you are still not happy with life. You are always looking behind your back, at all times. Families get hurt and sometimes killed."

Students were very attentive to the message: *"changing your mind changes your heart."* Mr. Reed is attempting to change one youth at a time with his speaking engagements. Perhaps that is what happened on that day!

Hammond Regional Office

SUPERSTAR!

Our Superstar for October was **PPO3 Mark Davis.** He was recognized by **PPS Dawnita Hodge** for always being willing to help.

Welcome



Hammond OJJ welcomes our newest PPO, **Adam Nyquist**, to the team! Adam comes to us from Connecticut (that's quite a commute ☺).

We're happy to have him aboard!

Training Sessions Attended

Hammond OJJ staff completed training in the following areas: Firearms Classroom, Chemical Weapons Recertification, Use of Force, SAVRY Booster, Safety Topic, JETS and OJJ Policy and Procedure.

Meet and Greet



Top: ECHO meet and greet; bottom, New Horizons Youth Service Bureau meet and greet event.



Hammond OJJ hosted two “meet and greet” events with our contract providers. The first was held with staff from the New Horizons Youth Service Bureau, and the second was held with staff from Eckerd Community and Home Outreach Program (ECHO).

The Youth Service Bureau provides in-home and on-site therapeutic services to youth and their families through the Counseling Center, Pathways, and MST. ECHO provides tracker and mentor services to youth under the supervision of OJJ. It was a great opportunity for our staff and the providers’ staff to put faces with names and get to know each other.

**LAW OF PUBLIC
SPEAKING**
**A closed mouth gathers
no feet.**

Happy Halloween

We celebrated Halloween on October 27th this year. Several staff members came dressed in costume and they had us all laughing hysterically! Some staff even decorated pumpkins and contributed ghoulishly delicious goodies for everyone to enjoy!

Pictured below in costume, from left to right are: our favorite witch **SSCIV Lori Wagner**, Saints Jester **PPO3 Kristin Rainey**, (kneeling) pretty kitty **PPO3 Kasey Wall**, ‘Bama Fan **PPS Carrie Austin**, prisoner **PPO3 Theresa Andries**, and groovy chick **PPO3 Danielle August**.



A pumpkin masquerades as a cool vampire.



Halloween goodies

Central Office

A Veterans' Day Reminiscence

By Col. Louis J. Hyatt, Director of Investigative Services

After my dad's (**Seaman 1st Class Lois Hyatt**) death, my sister and I were going through his personal items and found an old green rusted lock box. It contained his DD214 (discharge papers), his honorable discharge, and a document that described the orders of the day just prior to the invasion of Iwo Jima.

We never knew he had that document. I thought this was so interesting, as it described what a sailor was doing just before the invasion. It also described the operation and what his shipmates would be doing in support of the invasion. It gives insight into the daily life of a sailor during WWII.



Seaman 1st Class Lois Hyatt with the Orders of the Day.

My dad always liked to talk about his days as a sailor during the war and some of his adventures, places he visited, some of his ships and his friends. He met and married my mother in California during the war. He talked to me about what it was like being attacked by Japanese war planes and how the sailors were shooting at the planes with pistols and rifles or anything they could shoot. But, he never spoke about the aftermath or anyone

getting hurt. Only one time in my life did my dad speak about the horrors of war and what he witnessed during the invasion. By that time, I had already served my four-year tour in the Air Force (1967-1971) and was a grown man with kids. That conversation only lasted a few minutes. I guess he just needed to tell someone what it was like. After that we just sat there in silence until he changed the subject to something more positive. He never mentioned it again.

I looked for this document on Memorial Day and read it again and gave thanks to my dad and all the others who have and continue to serve our country. I want to share this document with others so they too could see a day in the life of a sailor.

Condolences

Administrative Coordinator Glenda Daiges' mother passed away recently. Please keep Glenda and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Congratulations



Administrative Assistant NyKisha Franklin's son, Maurshaud Melancon, along with the 2011-2012 Gonzales Middle School football team, won the Ascension Parish Middle School Championship! He was a starting player and played

the positions of wide receiver on offense and linebacker on defense. Maurshaud is very athletic and maintains a 3.0 GPA. *Pictured is proud Mama NyKisha with her son Maurshaud.*

Administrative Assistant Gwen Brinkley shows off her new granddaughter, **Lauryn Olivia-Grace Ned.** This little beauty was born



October 25, to **John and Tehrie Ned.** She was 18 ½ inches long and weighed 7 lbs., 3oz.



We feted **IT Tech Support Specialist Wade Campbell** with a baby shower just before **Baby Brielle Elizabeth** made her appearance. Congratulations to Wade and wife **Joanna.** Brielle was born Nov. 16, weighing 7 lbs., 4.8 oz., and was 20 1/4 inches long.

Top left, Program Coordinator Katie K. Justice instructs Wade in the fine points of shower etiquette. Right, Wade displays some of the gifts, and bottom, he shows off his precious new daughter.

LAW OF THE ALIBI

If you tell your boss you were late for work because you had a flat tire, the very next morning you will have a flat.



LSU vs. Bama....friendly competition brought Attorney Revettea Woods, left, and DAS Karen Stubbs, right, out to cheer their favorite respective teams. Well, we all know how THAT turned out.

Can You Identify the Official Central Office Witch?



This is a Halloween door decoration created by someone we know well and love. The owner is conducting a contest to see if anyone out there in OJJ Land can identify the Wonderful Witch of Central Office. Central Office staff may not participate and are urged not to call colleagues and give hints. Or tell. The winner will receive as prizes a big hug from the owner of the door and a lifetime free subscription to *The Inside Scoop...of OJJ.*

Let us hear from you – email Jerel.Giarrusso@la.gov

VARIATION LAW

If you change traffic lanes, the one you WERE in will always move faster than the one you are in now.

Bridge City Center for Youth

BCCY on Tour

By Chef Ron Sonnier

The campus had a visit in October from the Children's Defense Fund. The visitors were greeted by the Culinary Arts students with an array of sweets and coffee service. After orientation, the guests were split into two groups and taken on a tour of the facility.

After the tour they returned to the Culinary Arts classroom for a question and answer session. While on tour we had the opportunity to prepare fresh chocolate chip cookies and we served them hot right out of the oven. During this time one of the culinary students was approached by the head of the Children's Defense Fund organization and was awarded a full four year scholarship at any university of his choice. What an honor for him to be awarded with such a wonderful gift!

The students were also treated to a field trip put together by **Family Liaison Donna Bowie**, to the Lowe's Hotel in downtown New Orleans. The students arrived just as the lunch rush was ending and were given a tour of the entire facility including the kitchen, laundry service, executive offices and meeting rooms. The executive chef and sous chefs meet with the kids in the front lobby and gave them an overview about their job responsibilities and about the job opportunities in the hotel/restaurant industry. They also spoke to them about how they mentor students in New Orleans.

THE COFFEE LOVERS LAW

As soon as you sit down to fresh,
hot cup of coffee, the phone rings,
someone (the boss) comes to your
office, the baby cries...and the
interruption lasts until the coffee is
stone cold.

Congratulations to Travis and Veronica George



On November 6, **Travis and Veronica George** celebrated their third anniversary as Pastor and First Lady of Second Bethlehem Baptist Church, 7012

Colapissa St., New Orleans.

Veronica is an Administrative Program Manager at BCCY, and she celebrated 30 years of state service in October. We wish the Georges the best in their future endeavors.

Baton Rouge Regional Office

Congratulations

Employee of the Month

Congratulations go out to **PPO Leslie Jones** who was chosen by her coworkers as October employee of the month. Leslie was chosen because of her kind heart and willingness to help everyone. Leslie has made several appearances in *The Inside Scoop* because she is always going above the call of duty. Leslie said that she gets a sense of fulfillment from helping the youth we work with and making a difference in their lives. In her time off, she enjoys reading magazines or hanging out with her friends, family, and her puppy, Chase. Once again, congratulations PPO Leslie Jones! Keep up the great work!

We See You and You're Looking Good

Baton Rouge OJJ would like to recognize **PPO1 Andrew Bonner**, **PPO3 Marina Jenkins** and **PPO2 Patsy Adams** for monitoring a youth during an overnight stay in the hospital. Thank you all for going above the call of duty.

Shout Out

The Baton Rouge officers held a breakfast in honor of Bosses Day for our awesome supervisors. We greatly appreciate and give a loud shout out to **RM Michelle Thomas, PPS Rickey Cannon, PPS Cobie Chauvin and PPS Wendy Sarnier**. Thank you all for your hard work in helping the office to run smoothly every day.

Staff Attend SU Career Fair

OJJ Family Liaison Donna Bowie, Acting RM Michelle Thomas and several officers attended the criminal justice career fair at Southern University. Michelle addressed the students, discussing OJJ's work and our role in the juvenile justice system.



Family Liaison Donna Bowie, left, Acting RM Michelle Thomas, center and PPO Eloise Nelson, surrounded by students and graduates of the Southern University Criminal Justice Department.

Acting Baton Rouge Regional Manager Michelle Thomas speaks to students during the information session at the Southern University Criminal Justice Career Fair, as PPO Elois Nelson looks on.



We concluded the month of October with a PPCT refresher course at the BRPD Gym. We always have such a good time improving our techniques and sharpening our skills. Thanks to **RM Susan Miller, PPO Lynette Broussard and PPO Stephanie Krygowski** for coming out to train us.

Happy Birthday

We celebrated the birthdays of **PPO2 Patsy Adams** and **PPO3 Roy McBride**. Happy Birthday, y'all, we are glad to share another year with you both!

Alexandria Regional Office

Congratulations to All

Donna Desoto was recently promoted to **Probation and Parole Supervisor**. We know Donna will be very successful in her new position.

Administrative Coordinator 3 Cassaundra Conston celebrated 17 years of service with OJJ. "Hang in there Cassaundra, you will get to 30 years before long."

Best wishes to **PPO3 Rodney McNeal**, who recently received his bachelor's degree at the 2011 graduation ceremony from Upper Iowa University.

Rodney McNeal and his new bride Vanessa Baptiste McNeal spent their honeymoon at the beautiful St. James Resort in Montego Bay, Jamaica. Rodney also would like to thank everyone for the many cards and phone calls.

RM Johnny Qualls and PPS John Baker assisted Adult P&P with their 9th Annual Halloween Sex Offender Containment and Education Class. Johnny and John volunteered their time after working for hours, helping to keep the many convicted sex offenders away from the trick-or-treaters on Halloween night.



Recipes of the Month

BCCY Culinary Arts & Occupations

Chef Ronald J. Sonnier, CEC

The holiday season is right here upon us and it's time to make those special treats that will delight our loved ones and friends. This month, try out these easy and simple recipes that we have tested in Culinary Arts.

Cheesecake Brownies



Yield: 32 brownies

Prep: 40 mins. Bake: 10 mins. plus 30 minutes Oven: 325°F

Ingredients

1 cup quick-cooking rolled oats	1/4 cup butter, melted
1/2 cup all-purpose flour	1 ounce unsweetened chocolate, melted and cooled
1/2 cup packed brown sugar	1/2 teaspoon vanilla
1/4 teaspoon baking soda	1 egg
1/4 teaspoon salt	2/3 cup all-purpose flour
6 tablespoons butter, melted	1/4 teaspoon baking powder
1 3 ounce package cream cheese, softened	1/4 teaspoon salt
1 egg yolk	1/4 cup milk
1 cup granulated sugar	1 cup purchased chocolate fudge frosting
10 miniature chocolate-coated caramel-topped nougat bars with peanuts, chopped	

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Grease the bottom of a 2-quart rectangular baking dish; set aside. In a medium bowl, combine oats, the 1/2 cup flour, brown sugar, baking soda, and 1/4 teaspoon salt. Stir in the 6 tablespoons melted butter. Pat into the prepared baking dish. Bake for 10 minutes.

For the cheesecake layer: in a small bowl, stir together cream cheese, egg yolk, and 1/4 cup of the granulated sugar; spoon in small dollops over the partially baked layer. Sprinkle with chopped nougat bars.

In a large bowl, combine the remaining 3/4 cup granulated sugar, the 1/4 cup melted butter, melted chocolate, and vanilla. Beat in egg. In a small bowl, stir together the 2/3 cup flour, the baking powder, and 1/4 teaspoon salt. Alternately add flour mixture and milk to chocolate mixture, beating with a wooden spoon after each addition just until combined. Carefully spoon over cheesecake layer. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes or until the top springs back when lightly touched.

Cool in the pan on a wire rack. Spread with chocolate fudge frosting. Cut into bars.

Make Ahead Tip: to bake ahead, bake as directed; do not cut into bars. Cover pan; chill for up to 2 days.

Test Kitchen Tip: for a satiny finish, spread the fudge frosting on with a warm metal spatula.



Mirliton Seafood Casserole



Serves 4 - 6

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 6 large mirlitons, peeled and diced | 1 medium bell pepper, chopped |
| 1 pound fresh shrimp - peeled and cut in half | ½ cup celery, chopped |
| 1 pound crab claw meat | ½ cup fresh parsley, chopped |
| 1 stick of butter | 2 large cloves garlic, chopped |
| 1 bunch small green onions, chopped | 8 tablespoons Parmesan cheese |
| 1 medium onion, chopped | 1/3 cup seasoned bread crumbs |

Peel and dice the mirlitons and boil in 2 quarts of water until tender. Drain well in colander. In a heavy skillet melt butter and sauté vegetables until tender, then add the shrimp and cook until shrimp turn pink. Add Parmesan cheese, crab meat, bread crumbs, salt, black pepper and red pepper flakes to taste. Put all ingredients into a 2 quart buttered casserole dish. Sprinkle top with bread crumbs and dot with butter. Bake at 325 degrees for 30-40 minutes to get hot. Garnish with lemon slices.

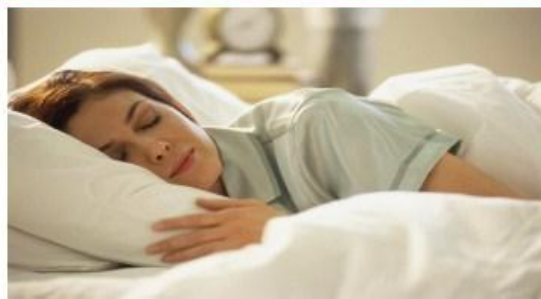
Bon appétit - Chef Ron Sonnier

Mirlitons

“Mirliton” is the Louisiana name for the perennial climbing squash. The mirliton is a favorite food in south Louisiana. Once a principal food of the Aztecs and Mayas, the mirliton made its way to North America and made Louisiana its home, although it’s also grown in California and Florida. The mirliton (pronounced mell-a-taw if you live in the country and mirl-uh-tahn if you live in the city) can be fried, stuffed, pickled, stir fried, cooked with tomatoes and used in salads. Stuffed mirliton (casserole) is by far the favorite. The mirliton is also known as the chayote (chi-OH-tay), mango squash and vegetable pear.

Once a backyard staple in south Louisiana, heirloom mirlitons were nearly destroyed by recent hurricanes. **Mirlitons.org** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting conservation and innovative uses of Louisiana heirloom mirlitons, and seeks to restore this culturally significant backyard food source. Mirlitons.org was founded by Dr. Lance Hill, executive director of Tulane University’s Southern Institute for Education and Research. Mirlitons.org identifies, distributes and preserves traditional heirloom mirlitons that have been naturally grown for decades in Louisiana. The organization collects and disseminates information on cultivating mirlitons and international culinary uses. It offers a free, comprehensive guide to growing mirlitons. Dr. Hill’s Adopt-a-Mirliton project partners with the Crescent City Farmers Market to distribute free plants throughout Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

****If you have never tried mirliton, sample Chef’s recipe. It’s a traditional New Orleans and south Louisiana favorite served on holidays and any time you want something good to eat. I remember my grandmother picking them from a vine on her fence in New Orleans and cooking them just like this. She called them veg-a-tebble pears or mell-a-tawns. –The Editor**



Facts about: Adequate Sleep

- Sleep is the **most important** aspect of your health.
- You could go 60 days without eating, but you can't go 4 days without sleep.
- 8 hours is about average sleep each night for most people.
- Let the body determine when it has had enough sleep. The best thing you can do for your cycle is get rid of your alarm clock.
- If you get up too early, you're going to have a sleep deficit, as well as a dream deficit, that you will have to make up at some future time. In times of these deficits, when allowed, you will sleep longer and correct both the sleep and dream deficits. You have to do that to get back to a normal sleep cycle.
- Sleep is necessary for growth, healing, and avoiding anxiety.
- Adequate sleep prevents and minimizes pain.

Lack of Sleep Linked to Weight Gain

Getting a decent night's sleep apparently does more than provide good rest -- it seems to curb the number of pounds women put on as they age, according to a new study.

Although the study didn't show a definite cause-and-effect relationship, there was a significant link between inadequate sleep and weight gain. Women who got only five hours of sleep a night, on average, gained substantially more weight than those who routinely rested for seven hours at a time.

In fact, women who got seven hours or more of sleep actually ate more than those getting just five hours of sleep. Exercise habits were approximately the same for the two groups-- although the group that slept seven hours tended to exercise a little more.

The women were part of the Nurses Health Study, which followed more than 68,000 women for 16 years. They were asked to report their weight and lifestyle regimen every two years. By the end of the study, women who slept five hours a night were 32 percent more likely to experience major weight gain -- defined as an increase of 33 pounds or more -- and 15 percent more likely to become obese, compared with women who slept seven hours. And women who slept for six hours were 12 percent more likely to experience major weight gain and 6 percent more likely to become obese over the study period, compared with women who slept seven hours a night.

Ways to Overcome Sleep Problems

Most of us have trouble sleeping occasionally: We're worried about a test or presentation, we're upset over a fight with our spouse, we've got a new baby at home, we've just gotten laid off, or we're starting a new job. Many of life's events disrupt our sleep, but thankfully they are short-lived and resolve rather quickly. If you're experiencing problems with sleep, here are some general tips on how to get adequate and more restful sleep:

1. Set a regular sleep schedule and stick to it. Go to bed and get up at the same time every day, including weekends.
2. Avoid foods and drugs with stimulants in them. Avoid caffeine after 3 p.m., as its effects can last as long as eight hours. Watch for hidden caffeine in teas, colas, and chocolate.
3. Beware of medications that may contain stimulants. Some over-the-counter drugs for colds, cough, and allergies can disrupt sleep-- talk with your doctor if you suspect any of your medications are interfering with your sleep.
4. Don't eat a large meal close to bedtime.
5. Avoid alcoholic beverages close to bedtime.
6. Get moderate amounts of exercise every day.
7. Develop a relaxation ritual right before retiring to bed.
8. Make sure your bedroom is sleep-friendly.
9. If you can't sleep, don't lie awake in bed.
10. If you are short on sleep on any given day, consider taking a brief (30-minute) nap in the afternoon to give yourself a boost.

If your problems don't resolve, keep a sleep diary. Note your eating patterns, alcohol and medication usage, sleeping times, and other behaviors to discern patterns to help pinpoint problem areas.

If you are suffering from chronic insomnia, you should be evaluated by your physician or by a health-care professional at a sleep disorders clinic.



Source: www.everydayhealth.com www.sleepdeprivation.com www.finerhealth.com

Provided courtesy of www.wellnessproposals.com

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is published monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is produced by the Central Office with input from staff statewide.

...until next month

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